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LOUISIANA LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF
EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

BATON ROUGE
P.O. BOX 94094

Phyllis C. Mouton, Secretary

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THE LOUISIANA ECONOMIC SITUATION

Total nonagricultural employment in Louisiana was estimated at 1,614,400 for March, an increase of 2,600 from the February revised level and 47,200 above the March, 1990 figure.

Goods producing employment was estimated at 332,100 for March. This was a decrease of 1,200 from last month's estimate of 333,300. Mining employment dropped as a result of less exploration for oil and gas. Employment in construction was higher due to more business throughout the industry. A temporary shutdown by a firm in the transportation equipment segment was largely responsible for the lower employment in manufacturing.

Employment in the service producing industries was estimated at 1,282,300 for March. This estimate was 3,800 higher than the February revised figure of 1,278,500. Transportation, communications, and public utilities remained stable for March. Trade employment was up mainly due to increases in retail trade. Employment in finance, insurance, and real estate increased as a result of more business in most segments of the industry. Higher employment for business and health services accounted for much of the gain in services employment. An increase in state and local government accounted for most of the gain in total government employment.

Average weekly earnings of Louisiana's 132,200 production workers in manufacturing decreased from $489.13 in February to $486.04 in March, a decrease of $3.09, and a decrease of $7.50 from March of last year. Average hourly earnings were $0.33 lower in March than February and four cents lower than March a year ago. Average weekly hours for March were 41.9, an increase of 0.9 hours from the February revised level of 41.0 hours.

The March preliminary unemployment rate for Louisiana was 6.2 percent, a decrease from the February revised rate of 6.6 percent. The average unemployment rate for the last three months (January, February, March) was 6.6 percent compared to 6.5 percent for the same period last year.

The comparable national unemployment rate for March was 7.1 percent. The national unemployment rate for February was 7.2 percent.

Total unemployment decreased to 118,000. This decrease is due to a normal seasonal decline in unemployment and a decline in claims for unemployment insurance.

The state's civilian labor force increased to 1,900,800 with an increase in total employment to 1,782,800.

LOUISIANA
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Mar. 1991*	Feb. 1991**	Mar. 1990**	Net Change From Feb. 1991	Net Change From Mar. 1990
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	1614.4	1611.8	1567.2	+ 2.6	+47.2
GOODS PRODUCING	332.1	333.3	322.8	- 1.2	+ 9.3
MINING	55.7	55.9	54.8	- 0.2	+ 0.9
Oil and Gas Extraction	53.9	54.1	53.0	- 0.2	+ 0.9
Nonmetallic Minerals	1.8	1.8	1.8	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	93.8	93.1	88.3	+ 0.7	+ 5.5
General Contractors	18.8	18.7	17.3	+ 0.1	+ 1.5
Heavy Construction, ex. Bldg.	37.9	37.7	35.2	+ 0.2	+ 2.7
Special Trade Contractors	37.1	36.7	35.8	+ 0.4	+ 1.3
MANUFACTURING	182.6	184.3	179.7	- 1.7	+ 2.9
Durable Goods	80.9	82.5	80.7	- 1.6	+ 0.2
Lumber and Wood Products	12.6	12.0	12.3	+ 0.6	+ 0.3
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	5.2	5.2	5.4	0	- 0.2
Primary Metal Industries	3.0	3.1	3.0	- 0.1	0
Fabricated Metal Products	14.6	14.5	13.5	+ 0.1	+ 1.1
Machinery, Except Electrical	11.9	11.8	11.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.5
Electrical & Electronic Equipment	6.6	6.7	6.8	- 0.1	- 0.2
Transportation Equipment	23.3	25.5	24.5	- 2.2	- 1.2
Other Durable Goods (1)	3.7	3.7	3.8	0	- 0.1
Nondurable Goods	101.7	101.8	99.0	- 0.1	+ 2.7
Food & Kindred Products	20.6	20.7	19.0	- 0.1	+ 1.6
Apparel & Other Textile Products	10.6	10.5	11.0	+ 0.1	- 0.4
Paper & Allied Products	12.3	12.3	12.0	0	+ 0.3
Printing & Publishing	10.0	10.1	9.9	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Chemicals & Allied Products	29.8	29.8	28.8	0	+ 1.0
Inorganic Chemicals	5.9	5.9	5.7	0	+ 0.2
Organic Chemicals	11.0	11.0	10.6	0	+ 0.4
Petroleum and Coal Products	11.7	11.7	11.3	0	+ 0.4
Petroleum Refining	10.8	10.8	10.4	0	+ 0.4
Other Nondurable Goods (2)	6.7	6.7	7.0	0	- 0.3
SERVICE PRODUCING	1282.3	1278.5	1244.4	+ 3.8	+37.9
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	110.4	110.4	110.4	0	0
Railroad Transportation	4.8	4.8	4.9	0	- 0.1
Transportation, ex. Railroads	66.4	66.5	65.7	- 0.1	+ 0.7
Water Transportation	27.1	27.0	27.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Communications & Public Utilities	39.2	39.1	39.8	+ 0.1	- 0.6
Comm., ex. US Postal Service	16.8	16.8	17.3	0	- 0.5
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	22.4	22.3	22.5	+ 0.1	- 0.1

LOUISIANA - CONTINUED
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Mar. 1991*	Feb. 1991**	Mar. 1990**	Net Change From Feb. 1991	Net Change From Mar. 1990
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	373.9	372.9	362.8	+ 1.0	+11.1
Wholesale Trade	85.9	85.8	84.1	+ 0.1	+ 1.8
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	47.1	47.1	46.7	0	+ 0.4
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	38.8	38.7	37.4	+ 0.1	+ 1.4
Retail Trade	288.0	287.1	278.7	+ 0.9	+ 9.3
Bldg. Mat'ls. & Garden Supplies	10.1	9.9	9.6	+ 0.2	+ 0.5
General Merchandise	40.2	40.2	39.7	0	+ 0.5
Food Stores	57.0	56.7	55.2	+ 0.3	+ 1.8
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	30.5	30.5	30.1	0	+ 0.4
Apparel and Accessory	15.8	15.9	15.9	- 0.1	- 0.1
Furniture and Equipment	9.5	9.5	9.1	0	+ 0.4
Eating and Drinking Places	93.2	92.6	88.9	+ 0.6	+ 4.3
Other Retail Trade	31.7	31.8	30.2	- 0.1	+ 1.5
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	79.1	78.8	79.1	+ 0.3	0
Banking	29.5	29.4	29.7	+ 0.1	- 0.2
Insurance	26.9	26.8	26.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.5
SERVICES	381.5	380.4	367.5	+ 1.1	+14.0
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	21.9	21.8	22.1	+ 0.1	- 0.2
Personal Services	13.8	13.8	14.4	0	- 0.6
Business Services	64.2	63.5	62.0	+ 0.7	+ 2.2
Auto Repair, Services & Garages	11.5	11.6	11.2	- 0.1	+ 0.3
Miscellaneous Repair Services	7.9	7.8	7.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
Amusement & Recreation Services	12.0	11.9	10.8	+ 0.1	+ 1.2
Health Services	119.7	119.5	113.9	+ 0.2	+ 5.8
Hospitals	53.0	52.7	50.4	+ 0.3	+ 2.6
Legal Services	16.0	16.0	15.8	0	+ 0.2
Educational Services	26.8	26.7	26.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.8
Social Services	22.5	22.3	21.3	+ 0.2	+ 1.2
Membership Organizations	27.0	27.1	25.7	- 0.1	+ 1.3
Eng., Acct. and Related Services	28.8	28.8	28.0	0	+ 0.8
Miscellaneous Services	5.1	5.2	4.5	- 0.1	+ 0.6
GOVERNMENT	337.4	336.0	324.6	+ 1.4	+12.8
Federal	38.0	37.8	38.7	+ 0.2	- 0.7
State and Local	299.4	298.2	285.9	+ 1.2	+13.5
State	107.0	106.2	98.3	+ 0.8	+ 8.7
Local	192.4	192.0	187.6	+ 0.4	+ 4.8

*** Preliminary** ****Revised**

(1) Includes furniture and fixtures, professional equipment and misc. manufacturing industries.

(2) Includes leather, rubber and textile products.

All estimates of nonagricultural wage and salaried workers in this publication are prepared in cooperation with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics and include all full-time and part-time workers who were employed during the pay period including the 12th of the month.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING AND SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN LOUISIANA

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	Mar. '91*	Feb. '91**	Mar. '90**	Mar. '91*	Feb. '91**	Mar. '90**	Mar. '91*	Feb. '91**	Mar. '90**
ALL MANUFACTURING (1)	486.04	489.13	493.54	41.9	41.0	42.4	11.60	11.93	11.64
Durable Goods	421.26	431.60	441.60	41.3	40.0	41.7	10.20	10.79	10.59
Lumber & Wood Products	377.95	316.59	364.21	42.9	36.6	41.2	8.81	8.65	8.84
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	405.81	400.93	405.56	40.5	38.7	39.8	10.02	10.36	10.19
Fabricated Metal Products	436.29	468.52	417.25	42.9	42.4	41.6	10.17	11.05	10.03
Machinery, ex. Electrical	434.26	420.46	423.58	43.6	42.6	45.4	9.96	9.87	9.33
Electric & Electronic Equip.	528.84	618.97	626.45	36.0	41.1	42.1	14.69	15.06	14.88
Transportation Equipment	413.60	443.89	472.12	40.0	38.7	40.7	10.34	11.47	11.60
Nondurable Goods	543.14	543.06	540.91	42.4	42.0	43.1	12.81	12.93	12.55
Food & Kindred Products	337.00	327.41	320.80	40.7	39.4	40.0	8.28	8.31	8.02
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	200.59	196.54	198.56	33.6	33.2	36.3	5.97	5.92	5.47
Paper & Allied Products	622.05	608.88	630.78	43.5	43.0	44.8	14.30	14.16	14.08
Printing & Publishing	418.94	416.19	433.36	38.4	39.3	40.2	10.91	10.59	10.78
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	770.76	775.70	745.44	46.6	46.2	46.1	16.54	16.79	16.17
Petroleum & Coal Products	822.12	840.45	869.45	46.5	46.9	48.6	17.68	17.92	17.89
Petroleum Refining	840.72	858.27	891.09	46.5	46.9	48.8	18.08	18.30	18.26
MINING	579.99	608.12	572.46	45.1	46.0	47.0	12.86	13.22	12.18
COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC UTILITIES	521.66	523.68	515.42	41.5	41.3	41.6	12.57	12.68	12.39
BANKING	279.33	278.16	292.50	36.9	36.6	39.0	7.57	7.60	7.50

(1) Data in the average earnings table are for approximately **132,200** full-time and part-time workers in manufacturing and **93,900** nonsupervisory employees in communications, public utilities, mining and banking. The averages are computed on a "Gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

BATON ROUGE AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	Mar. '91*	Feb. '91**	Mar. '90**	Mar. '91*	Feb. '91**	Mar. '90**	Mar. '91*	Feb. '91**	Mar. '90**
ALL MANUFACTURING (1)	608.19	618.34	607.84	44.2	45.2	44.4	13.76	13.68	13.69
Chemicals and Petro. Products	800.59	828.37	810.12	46.6	48.9	47.1	17.18	16.94	17.20

(1)Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 15,200 production workers and are computed on a "Gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

NEW ORLEANS AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ALL MANUFACTURING (1)	459.10	447.88	468.42	40.7	39.6	42.2	11.28	11.31	11.10
Durable Goods	396.41	379.71	406.41	39.8	38.2	40.6	9.96	9.94	10.01
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	364.08	350.43	413.09	41.8	37.6	41.6	8.71	9.32	9.93
Fabricated Metal Products	421.41	369.46	382.93	41.6	37.7	42.5	10.13	9.80	9.01
Ship & Boatbld'g. and Repair	355.64	344.65	368.63	38.2	36.9	38.6	9.31	9.34	9.55
Nondurable Goods	529.19	524.06	536.80	41.8	41.2	44.0	12.66	12.72	12.20
Food & Kindred Products	365.93	346.99	354.03	42.5	38.9	41.7	8.61	8.92	8.49
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	105.28	141.53	213.30	18.8	24.7	36.4	5.60	5.73	5.86
Printing & Publishing	405.19	403.77	412.10	40.6	43.0	41.5	9.98	9.39	9.93
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	810.46	812.16	786.44	49.0	47.0	48.1	16.54	17.28	16.35

(1)Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 31,600 production workers and are computed on a "Gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

SHREVEPORT AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ALL MANUFACTURING (1)	449.12	512.32	513.35	39.5	39.9	41.2	11.37	12.84	12.46
Lumber and Wood Products	301.06	288.97	305.66	38.4	37.0	41.7	7.84	7.81	7.33
Food and Kindred Products	308.90	270.10	241.76	39.3	37.0	33.3	7.86	7.30	7.26
Printing and Publishing	369.81	370.26	382.96	35.8	37.1	38.8	10.33	9.98	9.87
Chemicals & Allied Products	597.89	600.85	649.13	43.2	41.9	46.7	13.84	14.34	13.90

(1)Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 11,100 production workers and are computed on a "Gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

LOUISIANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

(in thousands)	PRELIMINARY MARCH, 1991 LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP.	RATE	REVISED FEBRUARY, 1991 LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP.	RATE	REVISED MARCH, 1990 LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP.	RATE
LOUISIANA	1,900.8	1,782.8	118.0	6.2	1,860.4	1,738.1	122.3	6.6	1,836.4	1,719.5	116.9	6.4
METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS:												
Alexandria 1/	57.6	54.2	3.4	5.9	56.5	52.6	3.9	6.9	57.3	53.6	3.7	6.5
Baton Rouge 2/	274.8	260.9	13.9	5.0	268.5	253.8	14.7	5.5	265.2	250.9	14.3	5.4
Houma - Thibodaux 3/	70.3	66.5	3.8	5.4	68.6	64.3	4.3	6.2	67.1	63.0	4.1	6.1
Lafayette 4/	107.2	102.3	4.9	4.6	104.4	99.4	5.0	4.8	100.8	95.7	5.1	5.1
Lake Charles 5/	78.9	74.3	4.6	5.9	77.5	72.5	5.0	6.4	75.6	70.6	5.0	6.6
Monroe 6/	68.4	64.5	3.9	5.7	66.9	62.6	4.3	6.4	67.8	63.9	3.9	5.8
New Orleans 7/	582.2	552.5	29.7	5.1	568.5	538.8	29.7	5.2	567.1	534.5	32.6	5.8
Shreveport 8/	155.2	142.6	12.6	8.1	151.6	141.6	10.0	6.6	151.0	141.0	10.0	6.6

1/ Rapides Parish only. 2/ Includes Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Livingston, and West Baton Rouge parishes. 3/ Includes Lafourche and Terrebonne parishes. 4/ Includes Lafayette and St. Martin parishes. 5/ Calcasieu Parish only. 6/ Ouachita Parish only. 7/ Includes Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard, St. Tammany, St. Charles and St. John the Baptist parishes. 8/ Includes Bossier and Caddo parishes.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The Consumer Price Index, sometimes called the "Cost of Living Index", is a monthly measure of the average change in prices in a fixed quantity of goods and services.

ALL URBAN CONSUMERS	INDEX	% CHANGE FROM PRIOR MONTH	% CHANGE FROM PRIOR YEAR
March 1990	128.7		
March 1991	135.0	+ 0.1	+ 4.9

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE, OTHER AREAS

AREA	PRELIMINARY MARCH 91 LABOR FORCE	EMPL	UNEMP	RATE	REVISED FEBRUARY 91 LABOR FORCE	EMPL	UNEMP	RATE
CROWLEY (ACADIA)	21,500	19,975	1,525	7.1	21,200	19,525	1,675	7.9
OAKDALE (ALLEN)	9,975	8,625	1,350	13.4	9,575	8,175	1,400	14.7
NAPOLEONVILLE (ASSUMPTION)	6,375	5,725	650	10.2	6,425	5,550	875	13.8
BUNKIE (AVOYELLES)	16,250	14,425	1,825	11.3	16,075	14,075	2,000	12.5
DERIDDER (BEAUREGARD)	13,375	12,625	750	5.5	13,150	12,250	900	6.9
ARCADIA (BIENVILLE)	6,875	6,325	550	7.9	6,675	6,125	550	8.4
COLUMBIA (CALDWELL)	4,200	3,800	400	9.4	4,150	3,725	425	10.0
CAMERON (CAMERON)	4,550	4,350	200	4.6	4,450	4,225	225	5.0
JONESVILLE (CATAHOULA)	3,575	3,075	500	14.2	3,475	2,950	525	15.4
HOMER (CLAIBORNE)	7,275	6,850	425	5.7	7,150	6,700	450	6.3
FERRIDAY (CONCORDIA)	9,400	8,075	1,325	14.0	9,125	7,725	1,400	15.4
MANSFIELD (DESOTO)	11,275	10,225	1,050	9.4	10,875	9,875	1,000	9.1
LAKE PROVIDENCE (E. CARROLL)	3,475	2,875	600	17.2	3,375	2,725	650	19.2
CLINTON (EAST FELICIANA)	6,975	6,550	425	6.0	6,850	6,375	475	6.8
VILLE PLATTE(EVANGELINE)	13,750	12,800	950	6.8	13,600	12,550	1,050	7.8
WINNSBORO (FRANKLIN)	8,825	7,900	925	10.6	8,625	7,600	1,025	11.8
COLFAX (GRANT)	7,275	6,725	550	7.5	7,075	6,425	650	9.2
NEW IBERIA (IBERIA)	26,800	25,150	1,650	6.1	26,225	24,550	1,675	6.4
PLAQUEMINE (IBERVILLE)	11,400	10,300	1,100	9.7	11,125	9,975	1,150	10.4
JONESBORO (JACKSON)	6,050	5,700	350	5.8	5,900	5,500	400	6.7
JENNINGS (JEFFERSON DAVIS)	11,000	10,225	775	7.2	10,925	10,075	850	7.9
JENA (LASALLE)	5,875	5,400	475	7.9	5,775	5,300	475	8.4
RUSTON (LINCOLN)	18,150	17,575	575	3.2	17,950	17,200	750	4.2
TALLULAH (MADISON)	5,400	4,825	575	10.7	5,375	4,650	725	13.5
BASTROP (MOREHOUSE)	12,825	11,600	1,225	9.5	12,675	11,200	1,475	11.6
NATCHITOCHES (NATCHITOCHES)	15,100	14,050	1,050	6.9	14,925	13,575	1,350	9.0
POINT-A-LA-HACHE (PLAQUM.)	8,500	7,975	525	6.3	8,425	7,900	525	6.2
NEW ROADS (POINTE COUPEE)	6,725	6,000	725	10.8	6,725	5,825	900	13.4
COUSHATTA (RED RIVER)	4,025	3,700	325	8.0	3,775	3,450	325	8.6
RAYVILLE (RICHLAND)	7,900	6,975	925	11.8	7,800	6,775	1,025	13.2
MANY (SABINE)	10,175	9,600	575	5.8	10,025	9,350	675	6.7
GREENSBURG (ST. HELENA)	2,525	2,325	200	7.6	2,475	2,275	200	8.2
LUTCHER (ST. JAMES)	9,675	9,000	675	7.1	9,500	8,725	775	8.1
OPELOUSAS (ST. LANDRY)	30,450	27,825	2,625	8.6	30,175	27,200	2,975	9.9
MORGAN CITY (ST. MARY)	24,200	22,525	1,675	6.9	23,725	22,000	1,725	7.3
HAMMOND (TANGIPAHOA)	36,650	33,700	2,950	8.0	36,250	33,125	3,125	8.6
ST. JOSEPH (TENSAS)	2,275	2,075	200	8.3	2,200	1,950	250	11.0
FARMERVILLE (UNION)	8,275	7,575	700	8.4	8,125	7,375	750	9.3
ABBEVILLE (VERMILION)	18,175	16,750	1,425	7.9	17,525	16,050	1,475	8.4
LEESVILLE (VERNON)	18,500	17,325	1,175	6.3	18,350	17,100	1,250	6.8
BOGALUSA (WASHINGTON)	17,425	15,950	1,475	8.5	17,250	15,750	1,500	8.7
MINDEN (WEBSTER)	18,425	16,925	1,500	8.2	18,475	16,550	1,925	10.4
OAK GROVE (WEST CARROLL)	4,700	3,650	1,050	22.2	4,475	3,450	1,025	23.0
ST. FRANCISVILLE (W. FELIC.)	4,050	3,775	275	6.6	3,925	3,575	350	9.0
WINNFIELD (WINN)	6,025	5,600	425	7.1	5,975	5,475	500	8.5

NOTE: LABOR MARKET AREAS ARE DESIGNATED BY NAME OF PRINCIPAL TOWN, BUT INCLUDE ALL OF PARISH IN PARENTHESES.

ABOVE DATA ROUNDED TO NEAREST 25. SUBTOTALS MAY NOT ADD TO TOTALS DUE TO ROUNDING. RATES ARE COMPUTED FROM UNROUNDED DATA.

ALEXANDRIA AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Mar. 1991*	Feb. 1991**	Mar. 1990**	Net Change From Feb. 1991	Net Change From Mar. 1990
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	46.6	46.5	46.6	+ 0.1	0
GOODS PRODUCING	6.6	6.4	7.0	+ 0.2	- 0.4
MINING	0.1	0.1	0.1	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	3.3	3.1	3.3	+ 0.2	0
MANUFACTURING	3.2	3.2	3.6	0	- 0.4
Durable Goods	1.8	1.8	2.2	0	- 0.4
Nondurable Goods	1.4	1.4	1.4	0	0
SERVICE PRODUCING	40.0	40.1	39.6	- 0.1	+ 0.4
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	2.3	2.3	2.3	0	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	10.3	10.3	10.2	0	+ 0.1
Wholesale Trade	1.9	1.9	1.8	0	+ 0.1
Retail Trade	8.4	8.4	8.4	0	0
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.0	2.0	2.1	0	- 0.1
SERVICES	12.3	12.4	12.2	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Health Services	5.3	5.4	5.2	- 0.1	+ 0.1
GOVERNMENT	13.1	13.1	12.8	0	+ 0.3
Federal	2.9	2.9	2.9	0	0
State and Local	10.2	10.2	9.9	0	+ 0.3
State	4.6	4.6	4.4	0	+ 0.2
Local	5.6	5.6	5.5	0	+ 0.1

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Alexandria MSA was estimated at 46,600 for the current month. This estimate was 100 more than last month and unchanged from March, 1990.

Goods producing employment was estimated at 6,600 for March. This estimate was 200 more than last month, as a result of an increase in the construction industry. Compared to March of last year, this figure declined by 400, with the largest decline centered in durable goods manufacturing.

Service producing employment for the current month was estimated at 40,000. This estimate was 100 less than February, as a result of a decrease in health services. Compared to March of last year, service producing employment increased by 400, with the largest gain centered in state and local government.

BATON ROUGE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Mar. 1991*	Feb. 1991**	Mar. 1990**	Net Change From Feb. 1991	Net Change From Mar. 1990
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	239.9	238.9	233.3	+ 1.0	+ 6.6
GOODS PRODUCING	51.3	51.1	50.4	+ 0.2	+ 0.9
MINING	0.9	0.8	0.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	27.1	27.0	27.6	+ 0.1	- 0.5
MANUFACTURING	23.3	23.3	22.0	0	+ 1.3
Durable Goods	5.6	5.6	5.3	0	+ 0.3
Nondurable Goods	17.7	17.7	16.7	0	+ 1.0
Food & Kindred Products	2.2	2.2	1.7	0	+ 0.5
Printing & Publishing	1.5	1.5	1.4	0	+ 0.1
Chemicals and Petroleum Products	12.3	12.3	11.8	0	+ 0.5
Other Nondurable Goods	1.7	1.7	1.8	0	- 0.1
SERVICE PRODUCING	188.6	187.8	182.9	+ 0.8	+ 5.7
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	11.5	11.4	11.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	54.1	54.0	52.0	+ 0.1	+ 2.1
Wholesale Trade	12.5	12.5	12.5	0	0
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	8.7	8.7	8.7	0	0
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	3.8	3.8	3.8	0	0
Retail Trade	41.6	41.5	39.5	+ 0.1	+ 2.1
General Merchandise	6.6	6.5	6.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	13.0	13.0	12.8	0	+ 0.2
Banking	4.1	4.1	4.1	0	0
SERVICES	54.8	54.6	52.2	+ 0.2	+ 2.6
GOVERNMENT	55.2	54.8	54.7	+ 0.4	+ 0.5
Federal	2.4	2.4	2.7	0	- 0.3
State and Local	52.8	52.4	52.0	+ 0.4	+ 0.8
State	30.2	29.9	29.7	+ 0.3	+ 0.5
Local	22.6	22.5	22.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.3

BATON ROUGE AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment for the Baton Rouge MSA continued to rise in March to a level of 239,900. This figure was 1,000 above the February revised estimate and 6,600 higher than the year-ago level.

Goods producing employment at 51,300, was 200 above the February revised estimate. This gain was due to more business activity in both mining and construction. Manufacturing employment at 23,300 remained unchanged from February.

Service producing employment rose 800, to a level of 188,600, due to gains in a majority of the sectors for March. An increase in motor freight employment was responsible for the growth in the transportation, communications and public utilities industry. Trade rebounded over the month, gaining employment in retail department stores. Services increased to 54,800 due to employment gains in miscellaneous business, and amusement and recreational services. Finance, insurance, and real estate was the only sector reporting no change. Government was up 400 in March as a result of seasonal increases in state and local government.

Average weekly earnings of the Baton Rouge MSA's 15,200 production workers in all manufacturing was $608.19 for March, a decrease of $10.15 from the February average. Compared to the prior year, weekly earnings were up $0.35. Average weekly hours at 44.2, decreased by one hour, while average hourly earnings at $13.76, increased by eight cents per hour. A shorter workweek contributed to these changes.

The total civilian labor force for the Baton Rouge MSA was 274,800, comprised of 260,900 employed and 13,900 unemployed. The unemployment rate for the MSA was 5.0 percent in March.

The Baton Rouge Job Service Office served 1,546 individuals with new or renewal applications. A total of 1,808 referrals to current openings resulted in 125 placements during the month of March.

HOUMA - THIBODAUX AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Mar. 1991*	Feb. 1991**	Mar. 1990**	Net Change From Feb. 1991	Net Change From Mar. 1990
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	58.4	57.9	56.2	+ 0.5	+ 2.2
GOODS PRODUCING	13.4	13.2	12.1	+ 0.2	+ 1.3
MINING	5.7	5.6	5.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
CONSTRUCTION	2.1	2.1	1.7	0	+ 0.4
MANUFACTURING	5.6	5.5	5.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.6
Durable Goods	4.2	4.2	3.5	0	+ 0.7
Nondurable Goods	1.4	1.3	1.5	+ 0.1	- 0.1
SERVICE PRODUCING	45.0	44.7	44.1	+ 0.3	+ 0.9
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	6.6	6.5	6.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Water Transportation	4.1	4.0	4.1	+ 0.1	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	14.5	14.4	14.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.5
Wholesale Trade	2.9	2.9	2.9	0	0
Retail Trade	11.6	11.5	11.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.5
General Mdse. & App. & Acc.	2.3	2.3	2.1	0	+ 0.2
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.1	2.1	2.1	0	0
SERVICES	10.8	10.7	10.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
GOVERNMENT	11.0	11.0	11.0	0	0
Federal	0.4	0.4	0.5	0	- 0.1
State and Local	10.6	10.6	10.5	0	+ 0.1
State	3.1	3.1	3.0	0	+ 0.1
Local	7.5	7.5	7.5	0	0

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Houma-Thibodaux MSA pushed up to 58,400, a level 500 above February. Gains were scattered through several segments of both goods producing and service producing employment. Total nonagricultural employment stood 2,200 above the year-ago level.

Goods producing employment increased to 13,400, up 200 from February, and 1,300 above the March, 1990 figure. Mining added workers as the weather became more favorable for outside work. In manufacturing, the nondurable goods segment increased due to more business. Construction remained at the same level.

Service producing employment exhibited a total increase of 300. Water transportation benefited both directly and indirectly from better weather conditions. Trade added workers, mostly in eating and drinking places. Services employment was boosted by a small gain spread through several segments in this industry.

Estimated unemployment was 3,800 in March. Unemployment presently comprises 5.4 percent of the civilian labor force for the Houma-Thibodaux MSA. Recipients of regular unemployment benefits totaled 934.

LAFAYETTE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Mar. 1991*	Feb. 1991**	Mar. 1990**	Net Change From Feb. 1991	Net Change From Mar. 1990
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	99.7	99.2	94.2	+ 0.5	+ 5.5
GOODS PRODUCING	26.7	26.4	24.8	+ 0.3	+ 1.9
MINING	12.9	13.0	11.9	- 0.1	+ 1.0
CONSTRUCTION	4.6	4.3	3.8	+ 0.3	+ 0.8
MANUFACTURING	9.2	9.1	9.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Durable Goods	2.8	2.8	2.5	0	+ 0.3
Nondurable Goods	6.4	6.3	6.6	+ 0.1	- 0.2
SERVICE PRODUCING	73.0	72.8	69.4	+ 0.2	+ 3.6
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	7.2	7.4	6.9	- 0.2	+ 0.3
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	25.8	25.9	24.5	- 0.1	+ 1.3
Wholesale Trade	6.2	6.2	5.9	0	+ 0.3
Retail Trade	19.6	19.7	18.6	- 0.1	+ 1.0
General Merchandise	2.5	2.5	2.6	0	- 0.1
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	3.3	3.4	3.3	- 0.1	0
Banking	1.2	1.2	1.2	0	0
SERVICES	22.6	22.3	21.3	+ 0.3	+ 1.3
GOVERNMENT	14.1	13.8	13.4	+ 0.3	+ 0.7
Federal	1.0	0.9	1.0	+ 0.1	0
State and Local	13.1	12.9	12.4	+ 0.2	+ 0.7
State	5.3	5.1	4.9	+ 0.2	+ 0.4
Local	7.8	7.8	7.5	0	+ 0.3

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Lafayette MSA was estimated at 99,700, an increase of 500 from the February, 1991 revised estimate.

Goods producing employment increased by 300 to an estimated figure of 26,700. Construction increased by 300 due to better weather in March and interest rates coming down. Manufacturing was up by 100, with the gain centered in the nondurable goods sector. Mining dropped by 100 from the prior month, but compared to a year ago, employment in this sector is up by 1,000.

Service producing employment increased by 200 to an estimated level of 73,000. Services rose by 300 due primarily to an increase in landscape and horticultural services. Government was up by 300 due to employment gains at state educational institutions in the MSA. Transportation, communications, and public utilities employment declined by 200 due primarily to water transportation employment dropping. Trade and finance, insurance, and real estate sectors both had a minimal decrease of 100.

LAKE CHARLES AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Mar. 1991*	Feb. 1991**	Mar. 1990**	Net Change From Feb. 1991	Net Change From Mar. 1990
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	68.1	67.9	65.4	+ 0.2	+ 2.7
GOODS PRODUCING	19.9	19.8	18.6	+ 0.1	+ 1.3
MINING	1.4	1.4	1.3	0	+ 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	7.2	7.0	5.3	+ 0.2	+ 1.9
MANUFACTURING	11.3	11.4	12.0	- 0.1	- 0.7
Durable Goods	2.6	2.7	3.2	- 0.1	- 0.6
Nondurable Goods	8.7	8.7	8.8	0	- 0.1
Chemical & Petro Products	7.9	8.0	8.0	- 0.1	- 0.1
SERVICE PRODUCING	48.2	48.1	46.8	+ 0.1	+ 1.4
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	4.4	4.4	4.3	0	+ 0.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	15.2	15.2	15.2	0	0
Wholesale Trade	3.4	3.4	3.2	0	+ 0.2
Retail Trade	11.8	11.8	12.0	0	- 0.2
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.6	2.6	2.6	0	0
SERVICES	14.8	14.7	13.9	+ 0.1	+ 0.9
GOVERNMENT	11.2	11.2	10.8	0	+ 0.4
Federal	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
State and Local	10.6	10.6	10.2	0	+ 0.4
State	3.3	3.3	3.1	0	+ 0.2
Local	7.3	7.3	7.1	0	+ 0.2

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Lake Charles MSA was estimated at 68,100 during March. This was an increase of 200 from the February estimated employment level of 67,900.

Goods producing employment was estimated at 19,900, a gain of 100 from the prior month. The construction industry was the only industry within the goods producing sector to show an increase in employment during March.

Service producing employment was estimated at 48,200, a gain of 100 from the February revised estimate of 48,100. Services employment was up by 100 primarily due to growth in amusement and recreation services. All other industries within the service producing sector showed no change in employment from last month.

MONROE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Mar. 1991*	Feb. 1991**	Mar. 1990**	Net Change From Feb. 1991	Net Change From Mar. 1990
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	58.5	58.3	58.9	+ 0.2	- 0.4
GOODS PRODUCING	10.9	10.6	10.7	+ 0.3	+ 0.2
MINING	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	2.7	2.5	2.7	+ 0.2	0
MANUFACTURING	7.8	7.7	7.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Durable Goods	2.0	1.9	2.1	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Nondurable Goods	5.8	5.8	5.5	0	+ 0.3
Food & Kindred Products	0.8	0.8	0.7	0	+ 0.1
Other Nondurable Goods	5.0	5.0	4.8	0	+ 0.2
SERVICE PRODUCING	47.6	47.7	48.2	- 0.1	- 0.6
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	3.0	3.0	3.3	0	- 0.3
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	14.6	14.7	14.9	- 0.1	- 0.3
Wholesale Trade	3.6	3.7	3.7	- 0.1	- 0.1
Retail Trade	11.0	11.0	11.2	0	- 0.2
General Mdse. & App. & Acc.	2.5	2.5	2.7	0	- 0.2
Eating & Drinking Places	3.2	3.2	3.2	0	0
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	4.4	4.4	4.3	0	+ 0.1
Banking	1.7	1.8	1.9	- 0.1	- 0.2
SERVICES	13.5	13.4	13.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
GOVERNMENT	12.1	12.2	12.5	- 0.1	- 0.4
Federal	0.7	0.7	0.7	0	0
State and Local	11.4	11.5	11.8	- 0.1	- 0.4
State	5.3	5.3	5.3	0	0
Local	6.1	6.2	6.5	- 0.1	- 0.4

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Monroe MSA was estimated at 58,500 during March. This estimate was up 200 from last month, but 400 below March, 1990.

Goods producing, estimated at 10,900, was 300 above last month. Construction was up by 200. Manufacturing gained 100 in durable goods.

Service producing employment for the current month, estimated at 47,600, was down 100 from the February estimate. Trade declined by 100 with the loss in wholesale trade. Government employment declined in the local government segment. Services gained 100.

NEW ORLEANS AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Mar. 1991*	Feb. 1991**	Mar. 1990**	Net Change From Feb. 1991	Net Change From Mar. 1990
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	542.0	540.3	529.1	+ 1.7	+12.9
GOODS PRODUCING	83.1	82.8	80.2	+ 0.3	+ 2.9
MINING	14.2	14.1	13.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.5
Oil & Gas Extraction	13.9	13.8	13.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.6
CONSTRUCTION	23.6	23.2	23.0	+ 0.4	+ 0.6
MANUFACTURING	45.3	45.5	43.5	- 0.2	+ 1.8
Durable Goods	24.1	24.2	23.0	- 0.1	+ 1.1
Lumber and Wood Products	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	1.3	1.3	1.4	0	- 0.1
Fabricated Metal Products	2.2	2.2	2.2	0	0
Machinery Inc. Electrical	3.4	3.4	3.2	0	+ 0.2
Transportation Equipment	14.8	14.9	13.8	- 0.1	+ 1.0
Ship & Boatbuilding & Repairing	11.3	11.4	10.2	- 0.1	+ 1.1
Other Durable Goods	1.9	1.9	1.9	0	0
Nondurable Goods	21.2	21.3	20.5	- 0.1	+ 0.7
Food & Kindred Products	5.5	5.7	5.4	- 0.2	+ 0.1
Apparel & Other Textile Products	2.1	2.0	2.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Printing & Publishing	3.7	3.7	3.6	0	+ 0.1
Chemicals and Allied Products	5.1	5.1	4.9	0	+ 0.2
Petroleum & Coal Products	3.7	3.7	3.5	0	+ 0.2
Other Nondurable Goods	1.1	1.1	1.1	0	0
SERVICE PRODUCING	458.9	457.5	448.9	+ 1.4	+10.0
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	44.2	43.8	43.7	+ 0.4	+ 0.5
Railroad Transportation	1.3	1.3	1.3	0	0
Trucking and Warehousing	8.2	8.2	8.1	0	+ 0.1
Water Transportation	13.5	13.2	13.4	+ 0.3	+ 0.1
Comm. & Public Util.	13.3	13.1	13.1	+ 0.2	+ 0.2
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	132.2	132.1	131.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.5
Wholesale Trade	30.7	30.6	30.8	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	17.5	17.4	17.5	+ 0.1	0
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	13.2	13.2	13.3	0	- 0.1
Retail Trade	101.5	101.5	100.9	0	+ 0.6
General Merchandise	12.3	12.3	12.3	0	0
Food Stores	20.1	20.3	19.7	- 0.2	+ 0.4
Eating & Drinking Places	36.1	35.9	35.9	+ 0.2	+ 0.2
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	31.4	31.3	31.6	+ 0.1	- 0.2
Banking	10.2	10.2	10.3	0	- 0.1
SERVICES	160.5	159.9	153.5	+ 0.6	+ 7.0
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	14.5	14.7	14.6	- 0.2	- 0.1
Health Services	41.9	41.9	40.3	0	+ 1.6
Educational Services	19.5	19.4	18.1	+ 0.1	+ 1.4
GOVERNMENT	90.6	90.4	88.4	+ 0.2	+ 2.2
Federal	16.0	16.0	15.8	0	+ 0.2
State and Local	74.6	74.4	72.6	+ 0.2	+ 2.0
State	20.1	20.1	19.5	0	+ 0.6
Local	54.5	54.3	53.1	+ 0.2	+ 1.4

NEW ORLEANS AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the New Orleans MSA for March was estimated at 542,000, increasing 1,700 over the February level. Most industry divisions experienced some gain.

Goods producing employment increased to 83,100, up 300 from February and up 2,900 from the March, 1990 figure. Mining edged up. Increased chemical plant and street construction projects boosted construction employment. In manufacturing, apparel and other textile products benefited from additional orders, while food and kindred products and ship and boat building and repairing experienced losses.

Service producing employment moved up 1,400 from the previous month. Plant reorganization and increased port activity benefited transportation, communications, and public utilities employment. Trade showed a small increase in the durable goods sector of wholesale trade. Finance, insurance, and real estate pushed up. Services made appreciable seasonal gains in amusement and recreation and personnel supply services. Government added workers in local government.

Production workers in the area earned an average of $459.10 per week, up $11.22 from last month's average. Average weekly hours were 40.7, up 1.1 hours from the previous month. Average hourly earnings were $11.28, down three cents from February, but $0.18 over March of last year.

Estimated unemployment was 29,700 for March. The unemployment rate registered 5.1 percent. Recipients of regular unemployment benefits totaled 6,767.

SHREVEPORT AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Mar. 1991*	Feb. 1991**	Mar. 1990**	Net Change From Feb. 1991	Net Change From Mar. 1990
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	131.0	133.1	131.1	- 2.1	- 0.1
GOODS PRODUCING	24.5	26.7	26.5	- 2.2	- 2.0
MINING	3.2	3.2	3.2	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	5.8	5.7	5.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
MANUFACTURING	15.5	17.8	17.6	- 2.3	- 2.1
Durable Goods	10.0	12.3	12.2	- 2.3	- 2.2
Lumber and Wood Products	0.4	0.5	0.4	- 0.1	0
Primary and Fabricated Metals	2.0	2.0	1.9	0	+ 0.1
Machinery, Inc. Electrical	5.0	5.1	5.2	- 0.1	- 0.2
Other Durable Goods	2.6	4.7	4.7	- 2.1	- 2.1
Nondurable Goods	5.5	5.5	5.4	0	+ 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	0.7	0.7	0.8	0	- 0.1
Printing & Publishing	1.3	1.3	1.4	0	- 0.1
Chemicals & Petroleum Products	1.6	1.6	1.5	0	+ 0.1
Other Nondurable Goods	1.9	1.9	1.7	0	+ 0.2
SERVICE PRODUCING	106.5	106.4	104.6	+ 0.1	+ 1.9
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	8.1	8.1	8.2	0	- 0.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	32.1	32.0	31.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.6
Wholesale Trade	7.8	7.9	7.8	- 0.1	0
Retail Trade	24.3	24.1	23.7	+ 0.2	+ 0.6
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	6.4	6.4	6.2	0	+ 0.2
SERVICES	33.0	33.0	32.1	0	+ 0.9
GOVERNMENT	26.9	26.9	26.6	0	+ 0.3
Federal	4.9	4.9	5.0	0	- 0.1
State and Local	22.0	22.0	21.6	0	+ 0.4
State	6.8	6.7	6.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Local	15.2	15.3	14.9	- 0.1	+ 0.3

SHREVEPORT AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

The nonagricultural wage and salary employment estimate for March dropped to 131,000, down from the revised estimate of 133,100, in February. The over-the-month decrease occurred in goods producing employment.

Goods producing employment in March declined to 24,500, showing a significant job loss from the February estimate of 26,700. This job loss was primarily in the other durable goods sector of manufacturing when a plant closed for one week, affecting 2,100 workers.

Service producing employment was estimated at 106,500. Trade showed the only increase in employment from February to March. All other segments remained unchanged.

Production workers in manufacturing in the Shreveport MSA, estimated at 11,100, had average weekly earnings of $449.12, decreasing from $512.32 in February. Average weekly hours dropped to 39.5, down slightly from 39.9 in February. Average hourly earnings declined to $11.37, down $1.47 from the revised estimate for February.

The civilian labor force in the Shreveport MSA was estimated at 155,200 in March. This total includes 142,600 employed and 12,600 unemployed, resulting in an unemployment rate of 8.1 percent. The unemployment rate for January, February, and March in this area averaged 7.3 percent. This compares with 7.4 percent for the same period one year ago.

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